

IRRIGATION IN THE FAR WEST.

Protection Is Sought for Forest Reserves.

URGED BY THE PRESIDENT.

How the Vast Stretches of Arid Lands May Be Watered by Means of Reservoirs and Canals—Turning Deserts into Blooming Gardens.

The President, in his message to Congress, recommended the protection of forest reserves and the building of great storage works for the benefit of the farmer in the arid regions of the West.

The forests he says, "are national reservoirs. They cannot, however, fully regulate and conserve the waters of the arid regions. Great storage works are necessary to equalize the flow of streams and to save the floodwaters."

For Artificial Irrigation.

The problem of artificial irrigation deals with the question of storing the surplus of water of one season for the deficit of the other. It is said that the solution of this problem in its practical and universal application is only being begun in the far Western region. In several places, however, lofty and expensive dams have been built across the canyons of mountain streams, such as the Parley's Creek Reservoir, in Utah. The perfecting of such works requires the construction of canals to fill them with water, and the drawing off the water and transmitting it to the land to be irrigated.

The system of artificial irrigation, with all the perplexities it involves, depends primarily upon the law of gravity. The point at which the stream, canal, reservoir, or basin is tapped being higher than the field to be watered, sends the water down throughout a channel to a ditch in the highest part of the farm. When it has thus been brought to a level with the most elevated points to be irrigated, it can be made to flow out over the land without any assistance from the irrigator beyond such manipulation as may be required to effect its uniform distribution over the minor irregularities of surface which latter are usually provided for before irrigation is attempted.

Many Natural Basins.

Many natural basins are found in the form of a great bowl completely enclosed on all sides, so that no dam or embankment is necessary. In such cases there has to be constructed either an open cut or a tunnel through the surrounding rim, through which a pipe or some other form of conduit is placed for drawing off the water whenever it is required.

Many of these reservoirs are at present in course of construction, and arrangements are being made for a gigantic and complete system of water supply. Although this will, according to agriculturalists, prove a great boon to farmers, it will also, it is said, lead to many complications. It will greatly increase the difficulty, now largely felt, of dividing the water among the different claimants to a common supply, and will make it necessary to have additional legislation to define the character of the rights to these stored waters.

Benefits of the System.

The benefits which have already accrued from the construction of reservoirs have so far, it is said, been most gratifying, but their improvement and operation have also added largely to the annual cost of water, and the settlers show a decided preference to the canal with an early priority right. Nevertheless, the necessity for the reservoir and an adequate system of storage is universally felt throughout the Rocky Mountain region, and the opinion is almost universal that the extension of the system will prove an immense benefit to the agricultural interests of the country.

Must Depend on the Earth.

The settler in the latter region, therefore, must be dependent upon the earth instead of the clouds for the means of irrigating his land.

Natural Streams Inadequate.

But with the immense tide of settlers it became some years ago apparent that the natural streams alone would not accomplish this purpose. It then became necessary to foster and preserve the bounteous gifts of nature at one season, in order to provide for the drought which prevails when the rivers are at their lowest ebb, by the building of artificial reservoirs, which, placed at convenient locations, receive and distribute their supply by means of the rivers themselves and canals.

Priority of Water Rights.

This system of artificial water supply is admitted to have its disadvantages. The farmer who locates in the Rocky Mountain region has first to establish his water-right claim, and the neglect of this may cause him considerable trouble during his future occupation of the land.

The Streams Patrolled.

That this supervision of the distribution of the water may be effective, it has been found necessary to police and patrol the streams, which it is obtained. To this end it becomes the duty of the water master to examine and regulate the head-gates of all ditches or other conduits by which water is diverted from the stream or streams under his charge, for the purpose of determining that each claimant receives the volume of water to which he is entitled under his decreed priority of right.

During the spring season, when the streams are in flood and before the work

of irrigation is in active progress, these duties are comparatively simple, since at this time there is generally enough water for all claims, and hence no call for anyone taking more than his due share.

Legal Questions Involved.

The complicated system of water supply, with the various legal questions involved, together with the vast engineering enterprises which have made it possible, has grown from the small ditch of the pioneer settler. The pioneers, having selected the ground which they intended to occupy, constructed each his own ditch for the irrigation of his farm and collected there, from some neighboring stream, the water needed for his purpose. Even at the present time, the limited of the settler leads him, if possible, to prefer this independent method to the enforced submission to regulations, which dependence on partnership ditches or canals involves. The settler of today, however, must seek for such opportunities far from civilization, and the building of individual ditches is said to be largely a thing of the past.

ROADS TO FAME IN LITERATURE

One the Result of Hard Work, the Other of Inspiration.

A Single Line Has Often Won Undying Reputation for Its Author. The Story of the Success of "John Inglesant."

There are two roads by which fame in literature may be reached. One kind is the result of the slow, laborious work of years. That is the long, winding road, which often crosses many hills and descends into many deep valleys. Of such is the fame of Walter Scott, who built for himself a memorial in print and paper which will last so long as the language that he wrote in, and many others, shall endure. The other kind is of the hazy inspiration of a few marvelous moments, which have been permitted to win a fame almost, if not quite, as enduring as theirs.

Congress's Immortal Lines.

For instance, how many among the myriad readers of modern poetry and drama remember the name of William Congreve, who about three hundred years ago was one of the most famous English dramatists? Probably not 1 per cent, yet Congreve wrote one immortal line that everybody knows:

Music hath charms to soothe a savage breast.

Congreve wrote many finer lines than this, but this is the one that has saved him from twentieth-century oblivion, possibly only the inspiration of one magical moment, and yet that line will live as long as the English language.

Another instance of a writer taking a short cut to fame is that of the Rev. Charles Wolfe. In the year 1817 he wrote in the "Edinburgh Annual Register" an account of one of the greatest tragedies of the English army. He wrote a poem on it and gave it to the world anonymously. It was copied into the newspapers and magazines, and the best literary critics of the age ascribed it, not only to Southey, but even to Campbell and Byron himself. All disclaimed the authorship, and Byron described it as the most beautiful ode in the language. When people forget to speak English they will forget the lines beginning:

Not a drum was heard, not a funeral note, As his corse to the ramparts we hurried.

"And Robin Gray."

Lady Anne Barnard, a friend of Sir Walter Scott, might have lived and died in obscurity so far as the greater world outside her own social circle was concerned if an inspiration had not come to her, no doubt suggested to her by some Scottish tragedy of peasant life. The result of that inspiration was a song which will live as long as the English language, and which has been the source of the greatest world-wide fame in the history of English literature.

Nearly 400 years ago there was born a fighting poet who wrote some of the sweetest songs in the English language. Thousands of English readers, and readers of English poetry at home and abroad, know four lines of his as well as they know the most hackneyed passages from Shakespeare, and yet only a score or so of them could say where the lines come from or who wrote them.

I would not have them, dear, so much, I loved I love not honor more.

Some would do but a prison make, Nor I would I were a slave.

Written in Prison.

How many who read these lines know that they were written by Richard Lovelace, while he was in prison, penniless and dying of consumption?

It is commonly supposed that Thomas Gray's line rests on a single poem, and that as an inspiration. This is a mistake. Thomas Gray wrote the "Progress of Poesy" and "The Bard," and these would have secured his place in the Temple of Fame if he had never written a line of the "Elegy in a Country Churchyard."

They are the two finest odes in the English language. The elegy may probably have begun with an inspiration, but it took seven years to write.

There are, of course, many instances of an author gaining immortal fame with one book. Of these "Don Quixote," perhaps, the most famous. Cervantes plowed the literary fields for many years and produced many crops, but this one incomparable harvest is the only one that has survived.

Another Kind of Fame.

There is another kind of fame which, though well deserved, comes as it were by accident. There are two modern instances of this in which Mr. Gladstone acted, once knowingly and once unknowingly, as the bestower of the laurel wreath. When Mr. Humphrey Ward wrote "Robert Elsmere," a copy fell into the hands of the Great Old Critic, and he criticized it unparagonably. The criticism, of course, made the book and the fortune of the author. If it had not been for that criticism, the fortunes of both might have been different. At another time Mr. Gladstone went to have his photograph taken. The artist suggested that he should have a book in his hand, took one off his table and gave it to him. The light fell on the title of the book so that it could easily be read. The title was "John Inglesant."

It had been published in Birmingham and had run through an edition of 500 copies.

It was one of the best modern novels ever written, but if the photographer had given Mr. Gladstone a copy of "Paradise Lost" or "The Pilgrim's Progress," "John Inglesant" might never have been heard of beyond a circle of intimate friends.

Pointed Anecdotes of Well-Known Men.

Rosewater's Introduction to Lincoln.

During the past week conferring with the President concerning Nebraska appointments, has enjoyed the confidence of many Presidents.

"Lincoln," said Mr. Rosewater a few nights ago at the Bluebird, "was the first President I was privileged to meet. It was during the civil war. At that time I was in charge of the telegraph bureau in the War Department. We were working day and night at fever heat, and when the news came of the fall of Vicksburg I remember that we sent a messenger out for a can of beer. Of course, it was contrary to the rules of the office to drink anything of the sort there, but we were so exhausted, and, withal, so jubilant over the glorious news, that we couldn't resist the temptation to indulge in this refreshment. We were passing the bucket around when, to our astonishment and alarm, in strode the President, who had come to look over our despatches at first hand. You can imagine our embarrassment. There was no use in attempting to deny or conceal. He had seen the tell-tale can, and although this was now practically empty, Lincoln was too shrewd a man not to know that we were all guilty of violating one of the strictest orders of the War Department. But he affected at first not to notice. Coming over to my instrument, he asked to see the latest despatch. He read it slowly, handed it back, and turning to the messenger, who had been hoping for a favorable moment to make his escape with the can, Lincoln asked:

"What have you in that bucket?"

"Answering for the startled messenger, I explained what he had been doing."

"Any beer left?" said the President.

"I told him that we had consumed it all."

"Here," said Lincoln, pulling a 25-cent piece from his pocket, "go and fill it up again." So saying, he turned away to the telegrams. The messenger arrived with the beer, and Mr. Lincoln looked up and told him to pass it around.

"Mr. President," I ventured to say, "if I get a glass will you not do us the great honor to share the beer with us?"

"Never mind the glass," he replied; "I'll drink when it comes my turn."

"Of course, we all insisted that he take the first drink, and with a message still clutched in his right hand telling how Grant had won the great victory, President Lincoln grasped the bucket with both hands, and, tipping it up, drank heartily."

"We all believe," as the President did, that the capitulation of the Southern stronghold marked the turning point of the war, and after the many Northern reverses the news of so signal a triumph for the Federal arms had awakened our profoundest gratitude and patriotism. And to have our beloved President sharing our simple, though contraband, celebration was a sacred thing to us. When he had finished drinking Mr. Lincoln handed the can to me. It is imagination, no doubt, but I have never since tasted beer so refreshing as that was, and as for the can, money could not have bought it from the messenger."

"One of my most amusing experiences," said Homer Davenport, the cartoonist, last night, "occurred in San Francisco. The late Dr. Joseph Le Conte was billed to lecture on glaciers, prehistoric monsters, etc., in the hall of the Academy of Sciences in that city. On the same night the Camera Club on an upper floor of the building was presenting its annual exhibit. The proprietor of my paper, a member of the club, gave instructions that the exhibit be touched up humorously. I was at my home when the telephone rang, and the managing editor asked me to go to the building of the Academy of Sciences and spread myself on cartoons. Unaware of the two attractions in the building, I naturally followed the crowd to Le Conte's lecture, and I pictured that great man leaping over mountains, making down Alpine glaciers, and steering icebergs in the Arctic Sea. My work unfortunately enjoyed immunity from editorial inspection, and so without thought of the trouble I was creating I sent my drawings up to the art room.

"Things broke loose the next day in the editorial rooms, and fearing a storm in universality circles, a diplomatic note was sent to Le Conte, saying that the paper had attempted to give a full and luminous account of his learned lecture (which had been done), and asking him for an expression of opinion on their efforts. The genial philosopher, regarding the wretched cartoons, replied that he had never been more faithfully reported."

Mr. Frank A. Vandervort, formerly Assistant Secretary of the Treasury.

Spent Thanksgiving Day in Washington as the guest of his successor, Mr. Milton E. Allen. Mr. Vandervort, who left the Treasury Department to accept the vice presidency of the National City Bank of New York City, has risen rapidly in the world. Five years ago he was a reporter on the Chicago newspaper; three years before that he was pounding iron in a machine shop in Geneva, Ill.

"I confess," said Mr. Vandervort, in speaking of his experiences, "that I was not a star mechanic. But while he did not, in a literal sense, always hit the iron when it was hot, his associates say that he was alert to seize any opportunity. Mathematics, in which he excelled, he studied diligently after work hours. One day in the shop the foreman and his assistant were puzzled over a difficult problem in figures. Vandervort offered to help them out. With some magnifying lenses placed the problem before the hitherto unpromising apprentice, who solved it speedily and with ease.

When the foreman discovered that the

work was accurate he walked up to young Vandervort, and slapping him on the back, exclaimed, reassuringly:

"Young fellow, you'll be a foreman some day."

That encouraging remark stirred the ambition of the apprentice. He won a higher position in the shop, saved his money, went to school, got into journalism in Chicago and made a specialty of financial studies. He soon displayed unexpected ability in getting track of impending operations in the moneyed world.

On the occasion of the Diamond Match failure it was realized by the financiers of Chicago that the news, if told by the papers in a sensational manner, might cause a panic. To avert a general run on the banks a meeting of eminent magnates was hurriedly called. They assembled at the residence of the late Phil Armour. In the midst of their deliberations a carriage rolled up to the door, and out stepped Vandervort, who alone of the newspaper men of that city had divined the impending failure.

"I see," said Armour, after Vandervort had asked a few questions, "that you know enough about this affair to wreck both the financial institutions in Chicago, but I appeal to you as a young man of good prospects not to do it. Let your sense of good citizenship prevail."

Vandervort replied that sooner or later the story would get out, and he suggested that the financiers give him the complete details and trust to his discretion in editing the matter. In turn he was to furnish all the papers with a dignified and conservative statement that would not create a sensation. This was agreed to, and Vandervort worked all night carrying out his part of the programme. Temperamentally announced the next morning, like an ordinary stock or real estate transaction, according to the terms on which he had supplied the story to the press, the news caused scarcely a financial ripple.

"Thus a reporter," said Assistant Secretary Allen, who related the incident, "saved Chicago from panic and won for himself an enviable reputation in financial centres."

Major James Albert Clark, President of the Theosophical Society of Washington.

When Grover Cleveland was President, E. Dorsey Mohan, then American Consul at Zanzibar, visited Washington. Mr. Mohan had hunted big game in the interior of the Dark Continent, and had published several volumes on his adventures. He was well received by society in the National Capital and he arranged to give some of his friends a banquet at the Metropolitan Club. He had just finished dressing for the occasion when a messenger came summoning him to the White House. Thither he went immediately, and was told by the courteous secretaries that the President was too busy to be disturbed, but that he had left word that Mr. Mohan was to wait for him. He waited. The banquet hour approached, and Mr. Mohan ventured to tend in his card again. The response was that the President was pained that the Consul was waiting and that he would see him as soon as possible. Mr. Mohan sent a messenger to the Metropolitan Club telling his friends to go on with the festivities, explaining that he was detained at the Executive Mansion. An hour, two hours passed, and the disappointed African explorer and hunter in desperation sent in a diplomatic note expressing the hope that the President had not forgotten him.

"In ten minutes more you can see the President," said the attendant. Half an hour later he was ushered in. The President was worn from a long session of state. He looked up wearily and he was manifest that momentous affairs had driven from his mind the business that had caused him to send for the Consul of Zanzibar. But Mr. Cleveland's wit was equal to the emergency.

"Ah, yes," said he, eying the visitor quizzically, "you have been a famous African traveler and sportsman, and I want you to sit down and tell me how they hunt elephants on the Dark Continent."

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"Ah, yes," said he, eying the visitor quizzically, "you have been a famous African traveler and sportsman, and I want you to sit down and tell me how they hunt elephants on the Dark Continent."

Mr. Cleveland's Thirst for Knowledge.

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